

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 13, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 39

Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Wieckowski)

February 19, 2014

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 39—Relative to cable and video service.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 39, as amended, Roger Hernández. Cable and video service.

This measure would call on the United States Congress to amend a specified federal law to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of public, educational, and government channel support.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Public, educational, and government (PEG)
2 channels are one of the last surviving sources for local television
3 programming across the country and PEG channels play a
4 significant role in televising open and public meetings; and
5 WHEREAS, PEG channels are a unique and valuable resource
6 for local information and discourse for residents; and
7 WHEREAS, PEG channels televise local government meetings,
8 including city council meetings, planning commission meetings,
9 county board of supervisors meetings, and school board meetings,
10 so that citizens are informed about the actions taken by local
11 officials; and

1 WHEREAS, PEG channels also are utilized to communicate
2 with residents on municipal events and services and provide
3 advisories and preparation directions to residents for emergency
4 purposes; and

5 WHEREAS, PEG channels provide a window through which
6 residents can view the diversity of cultures, educational
7 information, recreational activities, and artistic endeavors in their
8 local community; and

9 WHEREAS, PEG channels reflect the unique identity of the
10 communities they serve; and

11 WHEREAS, It is important to preserve PEG channels and
12 funding for PEG channels and to ensure that ~~PEG channels~~
13 *PEG-channel facilities* continue to be available ~~to the entire~~
14 ~~community~~ to serve residents *and to provide local opportunities*
15 *for skill-building and professional development for students and*
16 *workers*; and

17 WHEREAS, Section 542 of Title 47 of the United States Code
18 puts limitations on how PEG channel funds can be used, and, if
19 amended, would address critical and immediate threats to PEG
20 channels; and

21 WHEREAS, These amendments would provide solutions for
22 critical and immediate threats to PEG channels and facilities in
23 California and across the country by removing use restrictions on
24 PEG channel access fees, restoring PEG channel revenue streams,
25 and preventing video providers from charging municipalities for
26 the transmission of the PEG channels; and

27 WHEREAS, This change to federal law would allow PEG
28 channel fees to once again be used for any legitimate PEG channel
29 expense instead of restricting PEG channel fees to capital expenses
30 only; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
32 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature calls on the United States
33 Congress to amend Section 542 of Title 47 of the United States
34 Code to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best
35 use of PEG channel support; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls on the United States
37 Congress to eliminate an outdated and unnecessary pre-1984
38 distinction that does not give flexibility to local governments to
39 utilize PEG channel funds for any legitimate PEG channel expense
40 in addition to capital expenses; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the
3 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
4 the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
5 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
6 States.

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